THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF POWER IN THE MINISTRY OF ENERGY (SHRIMATI SUSHILA ROHATGI): (a) and (b) The scheme for installation of diesel generating sets at Kolar, Indi, Jamkandi and Bidar in Karnataka State has been techno-economically cleared by the Central Electricity Authority. Investment approval has not yet been accorded for want of confirmed availability of liquid fuels.

Allotment of LPG Agencies in J&K

698. SHRI GHULAM RASOOL KAR: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) how many gas agencies have been sanctioned and allotted to the J&K State during the last two years;

(b) the names of the persons/parties and other particulars who had applied for allotment of such an agency in Sopore Kashmir; and

(c) the names and particulars of the person/party to whom it has been allotted and reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI BRAHM DUTT): (a) Oil Industry has awarded 16 LPG distributorships in Jammu and Kashmir during 1984-85 and 1985-86.

(b) and (c) No advertisement inviting applications for any LPG distributorships at Sopore has been issued by the oil marketing companies. Presently, a sub-dealer of a concessionaire of HPCL is marketing LPG at this location, under an old arrangement.

Karnal Refinery

699. SHRI V. NARAYANASAMY: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware of the fact that there is an enormous delay in starting the work on the Karnal Project; and

(b) by when the project is likely to be completed and start functioning?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI BRAHM DUTT): (a) and (b) Setting up of Karnal refinery in the joint sector is being considered and offers received from various parties for joint sector participation are being examined.

Exploration assignment in West Bengal basin

700. SHRI RAMKRISHNA MAZUMDER:

SHRI CHITTA BASU:

Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Soviet Union has declined to take up integrated exploration assignment in West Bengal basin although it had earlier pronounced that the region was replete with potential hydrocarbon bearing blocks; and

(b) if so, what are the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI BRAHM DUTT): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.